

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 SCCT-02 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-08

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-07 SP-03 OC-06

OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01

SS-20 SY-04 EB-11 ACDA-19 SAM-01 DRC-01 /177 W

----- 058456

O R 281240Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0639

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO PINS MILI

SUBJ: POSSIBLE COUP ATTEMPT

SITREP 1 AS OF 1:00 PM SEPTEMBER 28 LOCAL

DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE

SUMMARY: STRUGGLE FOR POWER BETWEEN SUPPOSED PRO-SPINOLA INDIVIDUALS
AND ANTI-RIGHTIST ELEMENTS REACHED CRISIS STAGE THIS MORNING
WITH LATEST DEVELOPMENTS INDICATING THAT AFM HAS GAINED
UPPER HAND OVER SPINOLA. END SUMMARY.

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1. FOCAL POINT OF CRISIS IS PRO-SPINOLA MASS DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED FOR 1500 TODAY SPONSORED BY ELEMENTS DESCRIBED IN LEFTIST INFORMATION MEDIA AS "FASCISTS, REACTIONARIES", ETC.

2. DENUNCIATIONS OF PLANNED DEMONSTRATION AND ITS ALLGED REACTIONARY AIMS REACHED CRESCENDO IN LAST NIGHT'S PRESS AND EVENING RADIO BROADCASTS. VIRTUALLY ALL PARTIES FROM FAR LEFT TO IMMEDIATE LEFT OF CENTER (PCP, PS, PPD) AS WELL AS INTETSIINDICAL AND INDIVIDUAL SYNDICATES CONDEMNED DEMONSTRATION, CALLED UPON PUBLIC TO BOYCOTT IT, AND URGED ALL IN CONTROL OF TRANSPORTATION MEANS (BUS DRIVERS, RAILWAY WORKERS) TO PREVENT MOVEMENT INTO LISBON. RADIO ALSO CARRIED SPATE OF ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM VARIOUS UNIONS CALLING UPON THEIR MEMBERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO ATTEND PICNICS OR OTHER GATHERINGS IN VARIETY OF LOCALITIES, THIS BEING APPARENT EFFORT TO ATTRACT PEOPLE AWAY FROM DEMONSTRATION SITE IN BELEM. CONSUL OPORTO REPORTS THAT PCP IN CONTROL OF OPORTO RAILWAY STATIONS LAST NIGHT PREVENTING TRAINS FROM PROCEEDING TO LISBON AND THAT ROAD-BLOCKS MANNED BY VIGILANTE CIVILIANS WERE BEING SET UP ON ALL ROADS LEADING TO LISBON TOPREVENT MOVEMENT.

3. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE THAT CABINET AND/OR JUNTA AND/OR COUNCIL OF STATE HAVE BEEN IN SESSION MOST OF THE NIGHT. REPORTEDLY AS WORD OF ANTI-DEMONSTRATION ROAD-BLOCKS BEING SET UP AT NUMBER OF POINTS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY REACHED SPINOLA, HE DECIDED AROUND 0300 TO ASSUME FULL POWER, DISMISS CABINET AND ARREST PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES. THIS REPORT LIKEWISE UNCONFIRMED. ONLY OUTWARD AND VISIBLE SIGNS OF ANY OF THIS WAS FACT THAT NUMBER OF SEVENTH CAVALRY TANKS WERE MOVED INTO POSITION AT ENTRANCES TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN BELEM IN EARLY MORNING HOURS, AND THAT ANNOUNCEMENT EMANATING FROM MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS WERE BROADCAST IN EARLY MORNING CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF ALL ROAD-BLOCKS AND FOR NON-INTERFERENCE WITH FREE CIRCULATION OF PERSONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. LAST OF THESE LATTER ANNOUNCEMENTS (WHICH AMOUNT TO PRO-SPINOLA BROADCASTS) CAME AT APPROXIMATELY 0840 LOCAL. IT WAS FOLLOWED BY PERIOD OF SILENCE, THEN BY PLAYING OF SONG "GRANDOLA VILA MORENA" (WHICH WAS USED AS CODE TO TRIGGER APRIL 25 COUP). AT 0845 ANNOUNCEMENT BROADCAST OVER EMISSORA NACIONAL BY ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) WHICH REFERRED TO RECENT

REACTIONARY MANEUVERS DESIGNED TO SUBVERT PRORAM
OF AFM AND RETURN PORTUGAL TO DISCREDITED SYSTEM
OF PAST. ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THESE
MANEUVERS, WHICH INCLUDED MOVEMENT OF ARMS AND
ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, AFM HAD BEEN FORCED TO DETAIN
SOME "DOZENS OF PERSONS" DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS,
FOR WHICH PURPOSE SOME MOVEMENT OF TROOPS HAD BEEN
REQUIRED, CAUSING SOME ALARM, BUT APPEALED FOR CALM.
SINCE THEN ALL OTHER RADIO STATIONS HAVE BEEN OFF
THE AIR AND EMISSORA NACIONAL HAS BROADCAST ONLY
MUSIC AND INNOCUOUS NEWS UNTIL 12 NOON WHEN AFM 0845
ANNOUNCEMENT REBROADCAST.

5. THIS FOLLOWED AT 1230 BY STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT
OF REPUBLIC REFERRING TO EVENTS THREATENING PUBLIC
DISORDER WHICH HAVE OCCURRED THIS MORNING IN FACE OF
WHICH PRESIDENT FEELS THAT HOLDING OF DEMONSTRATION
SCHEDULED FOR THIS AFTERNOON SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE.
CONSUL OPORTO REPORTS THAT PCP SOUND TRUCK
CIRCULATING IN THAT CITY ANNOUNCING THAT REACTIONARY
COUP ATTEMPT HAS BEEN DEFEATED. AT 1300, PRESIDENT'S
ANNOUNCEMENT REPEATED AND FOLLOWED BY A COMMUNIQUE FROM
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMED FORCES CANCELLING
DEMONSTRATION.

6. COMMENT: WILL REPORT OTHER DETAILS AS AVAILABLE.
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT AFM HAS APPARENTLY
CARRIED THE DAY AND THAT SPINOLA HAS SUFFERED SERIOUS
SETBACKTHOUGH HE APPARENTLY STILL IN PLACE.
SCOTT

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